

Prevention

Power

How To Reduce Disaster Damage

T O R N A D O E S

Since tornadoes strike with little or no warning, once a tornado watch or a warning is issued, it's too late to protect your home and belongings. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's *Project Impact: Building Disaster Resistant Communities* offers preventative steps homeowners, communities and businesses can take to reduce disruption and loss before disaster strikes. You can't prevent the weather, but... you can prevent the damage.

Tips anyone can tackle:

- Know your risk – contact your local emergency management office or building department or visit the Project Impact Web site at www.fema.gov/impact to learn about potential disaster risks for your community.
- Make family plans for shelter and establish an out-of-state family contact and plans for the care for pets in the event you must relocate after the disaster.
- Buy a NOAA weather radio and use it.
- Promptly and properly dispose of hazardous materials.
- Keep your yard free of debris that could become projectiles in high winds.
- Make a list of items to bring inside in the event that a tornado watch is issued.

Tips a do-it-yourselfer can tackle:

- Trim dead or overhanging branches from the trees surrounding your home.

Tips that require an expert's help:

Project Impact strongly recommends that homeowners hire or consult a qualified professional for assistance with the following prevention measures:

- Build a safe room.
- Ensure that roof sheathing is properly installed.
- Reinforce your roof with straps and bracing.
- When re-roofing, remove old roof shingles, add more nails to roof boards and use high-wind resistant shingles.
- Reinforce garage doors.
- Anchor compressors, carports and other exterior items.
- Securely anchor manufactured homes.
- Install impact resistant windows and sliding glass doors.

ABOUT PROJECT IMPACT: Since its inception in 1997, 250 communities representing over 900 jurisdictions and 2,500 business partners have embraced *Project Impact*. Instead of waiting for disasters to occur, *Project Impact* communities plan mitigation projects, develop private and public partnerships, initiate mentoring relationships, and conduct public outreach to reduce damage from potentially devastating disasters. Previous community projects have included creating disaster resistance strategies, revising local building and land use codes, and passing bond issues to construct prevention measures that will impact the entire community.



For more information about *Project Impact* or preventing damage, call your local emergency manager, *Project Impact* community coordinator or FEMA's *Project Impact* at (202) 646-4117 or visit www.fema.gov/impact.